

economy in Latin America. In addition, Moody's recently issued a Baa3 investment grade rating for the country—effectively putting it on par with some of its larger neighbors in Latin America most notably Chile.

Recently, El Salvador successfully privatized its state electricity industry. The state entity known as CEL (the Comisión Ejecutiva Hidroeléctrica del Río Lempa) has been the traditional operator of electricity generation and transmission assets in El Salvador.

On January 20, 1998, CEL auctioned 75 percent of the shares of four state-owned electric distribution companies in El Salvador for a total of \$586.1 million dollars. This transaction was the first successful privatization of the electric industry in central America, and represents the most money earned to date from any privatization in the region. The three international investors who won the bidding process were: Enersal C.A. of Venezuela, Electricidad de Central America (a division of EMEL) of Chile (in which Pennsylvania Power and Light is a major stock holder) and AES Aurora El Salvador from the United States. Each company reserved 20 percent of its shares for purchase by its workers. The remaining 5 percent shares in each of the four companies will be offered to individual investors on June 10, 1998 on the El Salvador stock exchange.

In April, El Salvador launched a new retirement system based on the Chilean pension fund model. Five companies, including Citibank from the United States, were authorized to manage pension funds. After passing legislation to create the new pension fund retirement system in December, 1996, the Salvadoran government worked carefully to create a proper framework to safeguard and regulate the new pension system. The United States Agency for International Development provided key training for the Superintendencia de Pensiones.

The Government of El Salvador is planning to finalize the privatization of the state telephone company ANTEL next month. In addition to French, Spanish, Swedish and Mexican concerns, three U.S. companies, GTE, Bell South and Southwest Bell have submitted bids.

These privatizations have brought significant private investment to El Salvador. Moreover, to date, organized labor and El Salvador's political parties have been involved and have supported the government's efforts. The privatization process has also been roundly praised for its transparency and openness. These privatizations put El Salvador on the map as a good place to invest in the region.

We extend our best wishes for success to El Salvador as it moves forward with its privatization process.

IN HONOR OF FR. JOHN CHARLES DALTON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements and contributions of Fr. John Charles Dalton, on the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination.

Father Dalton entered St. Mary Seminary in 1943 and was ordained five years later, by

Most Reverend Edward F. Hoban. In his years of service, Father Dalton baptized over 2,000 parishioners and united 545 couples in marriage. He served as Associate Director of Services to the Deaf, Counselor to self-help groups, and role model to his community.

Throughout his distinguished life of service, Father Dalton has been a powerful force in the ministry. From the physical exertion of constructing a ballfield, to the patience of teaching, to the compassion of working with the deaf, Father Dalton has proven himself as a gentleman driven to help his community. He continues to visit the homebound and the hospitalized, and remains active in the Parish Ministry at Holy Name, Cleveland. From him, we can all learn of dedication, selflessness, generosity and wisdom.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing the community service of Father John C. Dalton, and celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination.

CARL D. PURSELL POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3808, a bill to name a Post Office building in Plymouth, Michigan after my good friend Carl D. Pursell.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fine honor for one of the finest gentlemen to ever grace the halls of Congress. Carl Pursell distinguished himself through his incisive intelligence, his leadership and his friendly demeanor. I had the great honor to serve with Carl on the Appropriations Committee and on the Labor/HHS/Education Subcommittee. I learned a great deal from Carl about appropriations and about the legislative process and, in particular, like the other members of the subcommittee, I benefitted immensely from the knowledge that Carl brought to the subject of education as a result of his past career as a teacher. Carl was uniquely suited to the challenge of formulating a coherent federal education policy and his contributions continue to this day to benefit the nation's students. He was also an early and tireless crusader for the interests of the nursing profession and the driving force behind formation of the National Institute for Nursing Research. His compassion, his common sense, and his strong knowledge of health and education policy issues all combined to make him a strong and effective legislator on behalf of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, this is a truly fitting honor for a truly fine gentleman and I commend the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. UPTON, for his efforts in steering this important legislation to the floor today.

IN HONOR OF FATHER ANTHONY C. CASEY

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a couple of minutes today to recognize

the contributions of Father Anthony C. Casey on the 40th anniversary of his ordination.

Father Casey was ordained as a priest on June 15, 1958 in his native Ireland. He came to the United States soon thereafter, and immediately devoted himself to our communities. He has faithfully served on dioceses in Brooklyn and Queens, including St. Mel's in Flushing, Holy Innocents in Flatbush, Saint Joan of Arc in Jackson Heights, and Holy Family in Flushing.

Father Casey joined the Saint Columba family in 1979, bringing with him a strong sense of spirituality and a deep desire to help others. All who have met him have been touched by his sincerity, devotion, charm, and tireless commitment to those in need. The Brooklyn community benefits from the hard work of this truly special man.

Father Casey has also distinguished himself outside the church. While serving our community, Father Casey also devoted considerable energy to his own education. He earned a Master of Science from Iona College and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from St. John's University. A diligent scholar, he has brought the same dedication to his work as an author, linguist, and artist. A leader by example, Father Casey recently lent considerable time and effort towards the push for peace in Ireland.

On this special day, we take time to recognize the contributions of our leader and dear friend. We extend our sincerest thanks to Father Casey, and hope that the Brooklyn community can enjoy the fruits of his labor for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, because I was attending the funeral services of police officer Dale Claxton, who was shot in his patrol car, I was not present to participate and vote on Wednesday, June 3, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, on the morning of Friday, May 29, 1998, Cortez Police Officer Dale Claxton was fatally wounded. Officer Claxton was a cherished and beloved husband, father and member of the community of Cortez, Colorado. He is survived by his wife Susan Claxton and his children Judy Claxton Choate, Caitlin Claxton, Colton Claxton and Corbin Claxton. The tragic and sudden death of Officer Claxton has left a tremendous hole in a community and he will be greatly missed.

Additionally, deputies Jason Bishop and Todd Martin of Montezuma County Sheriff's Department were wounded as well. The death of officer Claxton as well as the injuries sustained by deputies Bishop and Martin remind us that every day thousands of brave men and women put their lives on the line providing the thin blue wall between the law abiding citizenry and lawlessness.